

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DPW-01 /094 W
-----211343Z 023638 /46

R 211251Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3316
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 02705

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ES, PINS, SHUM, VN
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR LEADER'S REPORTED RELEASE IN SAIGON

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS A-422, SEPT 12 1976, (B) ECA507
NOV. 19, 1976.

1. THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE RELEASED NGUYEN VAN
TANH, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION
OF LABOR (WCL), WHO VISITED SAIGON ON A RELIEF MISSION NEARLY
TWO YEARS AGO, WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS, AND WAS
FINALLY ARRESTED LAST YEAR ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES.

2. TANH'S WIFE, WHO IS LIVING IN BRUSSELS, REPORTS THAT SHE
RECEIVED WORD MARCH 19 THAT HER HUSBAND IS BEING "RELEASED
TO HIS FAMILY." THE BRIEF CABLE FROM SAIGON CONTAINING
THIS NEWS WAS SENT, FOR SOME REASON, TO MRS. TANH'S SISTER, ALSO
LIVING IN BRUSSELS, AND SIGNED BY SOMEONE UNKNOWN TO THEM.
THE CABLE, IN FRENCH, ALSO SAID, "LETTER FOLLOWS."

3. MRS. TANH IS SPECULATING WHETHER TANH'S "FAMILY" MEANS
HER AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN HERE IN BRUSSELS, OR
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TANH'S RELATIVES IN SAIGON. WCL OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE
LONG BEEN NEGOTIATING THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES FOR
TANH'S RELEASE, REPORTEDLY HAVE NO INFORMATION OF
THEIR OWN ON TANH'S FATE.

4. ACCORDING TO MRS. TANH, SHE AND THE WCL SECRE-
TARIAT CONSIDERED ASKING UAW PRESIDENT WOODCOCK TO

INTERVENE IN TANH'S BEHALF WHILE THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS IN HANOI THIS MONTH, BUT REJECTED THE IDEA FOR FEAR OF NEGATIVE HANOI REACTIONS.

5. COMMENT. THE TIMING OF TANH'S RELEASE, IF IT HAS OCCURRED, MAY BE A FRIENDLY SIGNAL FROM HANOI, SINCE TANH'S HOME UNION, THE VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR, HAD CLOSE TIES WITH THE AFL-CIO AND SOME CONTACT WITH THE UAW. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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